

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH

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R 162021Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 296137

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. AUSTRALIA

LONDON OBSERVER'S COLE-ADAMS (WP) DESCRIBES FRASER AS MOST FORMIDABLE POLITICIAN TO LEAD COALITION SINCE MENZIES. FINDS HIM ALOOF, AUTHORITARIAN, SHREWD, RUTHLESS, A BLEND OF PRAGMATIST AND CONSERVATIVE. NOTES FEW DOUBT FRASER'S ABILITY. BELIEVES TEST WILL COME IN RELS WITH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, WHERE HE MAY BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN CRITICS EXPECT. NYT'S ANDELMAN AT CANBERRA BELIEVES FRASER MAY ELIMINATE 3 TO 7 OF THE 27 GOVT MINISTRIES. QUOTES GOVT SOURCES THAT NEW PM HAS DECIDED ON 2 PROGRAMS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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STIMULATE ECONOMY: 40 PCT INVESTMENT CREDIT FOR INDUSTRY, SUSPENSION OF QUARTERLY TAX PAYMENTS; MEASURES ATTACKED BY LABOR IN CAMPAIGN AS HANDOUTS TO INDUSTRY.

BEFORE ELECTION, MCARTHUR (LAT 12/13) SAID CAMPAIGN'S EXTRAVAGANT PROMISES, POLARIZING RHETORIC MAY DO LITTLE ROUSE ECONOMY, BODY POLITIC IN LONG RUN. OPINED FRASER'S ECON POLICIES APPEARED AS OPEN TO INDEPENDENT QUESTIONING AS WHITLAM'S. QUOTED ECONOMISTS THAT RECOVERY IN AUSTRALIA WILL DEPEND ON WORLD RECOVERY, AND LARGELY THAT OF JAPAN. IN 12/14 LAT, MCARTHUR NOTES FRASER

FACES STAGGERING PROBLEMS DESPITE RESOUNDING VICTORY. BELIEVES WHITLAM MAY STEP ASIDE AFTER DECENT INTERVAL, BUT ONCE AGAIN "CONFOUND HIS ENEMIES." SEES FRASER WITH STAGGERING JOB IN RESTORING AUSSIE ECONOMY, MAKING GOOD ON ECON PROMISES. PREDICTS HE WILL NOT HAVE RESOURCES, INCLINATION FOR ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY ROLE BUT MAY TRY IMPROVE TRADE, OTHER RELS, WITH PRC.

2. CHINA

PRC RETURNED ASHES OF LCMDR JAMES BUCKLEY, PARACHUTE RIGGER KENNETH PUGH TO USRC REP AT HK BORDER MONDAY. FULFILLS PROMISE MADE FORD DURING PEKING VISIT (CHITRIB; ISAACS, SUN). HK CONGEN SPOKESMAN SAID THREE OTHERS ON SAME PLANE WITH PUGH, REFUSED IDENTIFY (AP, PHINQ).

BUSH APPEARED MONDAY BEFORE SENASC HEARING ON CIA NOMINATION. SAID IN PREPARED STATEMENT THAT RECORDS AS USLO CHIEF SHOWS CAN "SHUT OFF POLITICS FROM JOB" (SIDDON, CHITRIB; VOLZ, NYDN; HORROCK, NYT; PINCUS, WP; CORDDRY, SUN; JONES, CSM).

3. JAPAN

CULLISON (JOC) NOTES ARRIVAL TOKYO OF BOEING TEAM FOR TALKS WITH JAPANESE PLANE MAKERS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY FEES TO BE PAID FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MEDIUM-RANGE JET-LINER. QUOTES FIRM'S VP JOHNSON THAT BOEING WOULD CARRY OUT PROJECT WITH OTHER PARTNER AERITALIA, EVEN UNCLASSIFIED

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IF MOF OPPOSED SPENDING GOJ FUNDS.

CULLISON CITES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT OVER WEEKEND TO INSTITUTE COSTLY PENSION SYSTEM DEMANDED BY DOCK WORKERS UNION, WHO CANCELLED STRIKE SET FOR MONDAY.

CULLISON ALSO DESCRIBES CONTINUING OVERSEAS EXPANSION BY JAPANESE BANKS, DESPITE RECESSION. LATEST WAS FUJI BANK, THAT OPENED PARIS BRANCH NOV 19.

TOKYO ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS LAB SAID US SUBSIDIARY, TEAL INDUSTRIES, PLANS OPEN MICRO COMPUTER ASSEMBLY PLANT NEAR LA IN SEPT (WSJ, TOKYO).

SPOKESMEN SAY JAPAN, EC REACHED "SATISFACTORY WORKING ARRANGEMENT" ON TEXTILES IN POLITICAL TALKS BRUSSELS LAST WEEK. EC HAS TWO BILLION DOL OVERALL TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN, BUT ENJOYS TEXTILE SURPLUS. MAY HAVE HINTED ACTION AGAINST AUTO IMPORTS IF JAPAN MOVES TO RESTRICT TEXTILE IMPORTS.

UK JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY, NEUROSURGERY, PSYCHOLOGY REPORTS MS ON RISE IN JAPAN, WHERE PREVIOUSLY RARE (UPI, BALTO N-A 12/15).

SIX MAJOR STEEL FIRMS PLAN APPLY MITI THIS WEEK FOR PERMISSION FORM EXPORT CARTEL TO LIMIT 1976 STEEL SHIPMENTS TO EC TO 1.22 MILLION MT (JOC, TOKYO).

OFFICIALS SAID DECIDED PERMIT JAPANESE FOREX BANKS OVERSEAS, FOREIGN BANKS IN JAPAN TO INCREASE DOLLAR SWAPS BY 300 MILLION DOLS AS OF JAN 5, TO ESTIMATED TOTAL ABOUT 2.3 BILLION DOLS (JOC, TOKYO).

MITSUBISHI PETROCHEMICAL SAID DEVELOPED ETHYLENE-RELEASING PLANT REGULANTS TO SPEED GROWTH, INCREASE YIELDS OF WIDE VARIETY FARM PRODUCTS, FREE OF TOXICITY, DEFOLIATING PROPERTIES USUALLY FOUND SUCH AGENTS (JOC, TOKYO).

RADIO AUSTRALIA SAYS JAPAN ASKED DEFERMENT 90,000 MT RAW SUGAR IMPORTS; SECOND SUCH REQUEST IN FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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YEAR OF FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR 600,000 MT ANNUAL SHIPMENTS. TOKYO SUGAR REFINERS CITE SLUGGISH DEMAND, FALLING PRICES (JOC, LONDON).

4. KOREA

OVER WEEKEND AVIS ADDED ROK TO LIST OF OVER 100 COUNTRIES SERVED. KOREAN LICENSEE OFFERS SELF-DRIVE RENTALS, CARS WITH ENGLISH, JAPANESE-SPEAKING DRIVERS ON REQUEST (JOC, GARDEN CITY, NY).

ROKG MONDAY SAID WOULD LIFT CURFEW FOR CHRISTMAS, FIRST THREE DAYS OF NEW YEAR HOLIDAY. HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1945(AP, SEOUL).

CHITRIB CARRIES PART III OF NYDN SERIES BY COTTER ON UNIFICATION CHURCH; DESCRIBES MIND-CONDITIONING BY SECT.

5. TIMOR/INDONESIA

FRETILIN CLAIMS KILLED 150 ENEMY SOLDIERS SUN IN ATTACKS ON DILI (CHITRIB).

SEEGER (LAT 12/15) NOTES TERRORISTS STILL HOLD INDO CONSULATE AMSTERDAM. SAYS MOLUCCAN GOVT-IN-EXILE AGREED TAKE OVER TRAIN HIJACKERS' DEMANDS IN ORDER INDUCE SURRENDER; THESE INCLUDE PRESSURING DUTCH GOVT TO ADMIT IT MISTREATED MOLUCCANS FOR 25 YEARS, SEEKING

NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDO GOVT TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE FOR ISLANDS, TAKING CASE TO UN. NYT REPORTS LACK PROGRESS IN CONSULATE SIEGE, SAYS TRAIN SURRENDER BROUGHT NO SIGN REACTION FROM GUNMEN. QUOTES MOLUCCAN GOVT-IN-EXILE LEADER THAT IF DUTCH GOVT DOESN'T CHANGE POSITION ABOUT S MOLUCCAN REPUBLIC, CAN EXPECT MORE SIMILAR ACTIONS.

HOPES RISE THAT GUERRILLAS IN CONSULATE WOULD RELEASE HOSTAGES (CSM). MEDIATOR AGREES TO REQUEST FOR RENEWED TALKS FROM S MOLUCCAN GUNMEN IN CONSULATE. INDO EMBASSY SAYS 3 DUTCH, 22 INDONESIANS BEING HELD IN CONSULATE UNCLASSIFIED

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(PHINQ; AP SUN, WP).

6. PHILIPPINES

IN BLAST AT MOSLEM REBELS, AMB SULLIVAN SAID 12/11 THAT US WOULD VIEW SECESSION AS THREAT TO US INTERESTS, SECURITY SEA. IN ANOTHER SPEECH AMB TOLD 3RD WORLD THAT QUICKEST, BEST WAY FOR SOME OBTAIN DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES WOULD BE TO PERMIT MULTINATIONALS OPERATE WITHIN BORDERS. ADVISED ASIAN, L AM NATIONS STOP COMPETING FOR ECON AID FROM INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SINCE MOST WILL IN FUTURE GO TO "BASKET CASES" SUCH AS INDIA, PAK, BANGLADESH, AFGHANISTAN, SAHEL (AP, CHITRIB 12/12).

7. DIEGO GARCIA

DESPITE CONGRESSIONAL FREEZE ON EXPANSION NAVAL BASE, USN SOURCES SAY CONSTRUCTION WORK GOES ON, AIR ACTIVITIES STEADILY ESCALATE (UPI, GLOBE 12/14).

8. THAILAND/INDOCHINA

USAF FLEW 24 FIGHTERS FROM KORAT, CONTINUING MIL WITHDRAWAL. UDORN DUE CLOSE END JAN, KORAT BY END FEB; NO PLANS YET ANNOUNCED FOR DEPARTURE FROM UTAPAO, US' MAIN THAI AIR BASE (CHITRIB).

THAI, CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES AGREE TO C-F DISPUTED BORDER AREA AFTER 3 DAYS FIGHTING THAT HAVE TAKEN 5 LIVES, WILL NEGOTIATE RIVAL CLAIMS TO OWNERSHIP AREA NEAR ANG SIL VILLAGE IN THAILAND (WP).

FOR SECOND STRAIGHT DAY NVN FLAYS AMB SULLIVAN AT MANILA
FOR ALLEGEDLY MAKING ANTI-VN STATEMENTS; SAYS AMB
BLAMED NVN FOR FIGHTING ON THAILAND-LAOS BORDER (WP).
LAT'S MCARTHUR (12/14) AT SINGAPORE REPORTS NVN ACTIVELY
DABBING IN INTL OIL POLITICS, TRYING LURE US OILMEN
IN WITH FORMER OFFSHORE CONCESSIONS AS BAIT, CLAIMING
ONLY OBSTACLE IS OBSTINATE USG. BELIEVES BIG PROBLEM
LIKELY BE PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD OWNERSHIP OFFSHORE OIL
DEPOSITS; BUT OBSERVES NVN SEEMINGLY MAKING PROGRESS
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WITH SOME US OILMEN, WHO PRIVATELY BLAME USG FOR
RESTRAINING THEM. MCARTHUR NOTES PEKING LOUDLY
REASSERTING CLAIM TO SPRATLEYS, THAT MAY PLACE IN
QUESTION ALMOST ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFSHORE OIL TRACTS
IN AREA. SEES PRC ALSO TAKING NVN TO TASK FOR CURRENT
INCLINATION TOWARD MOSCOW. BELIEVES OIL GAME WORTH
PLAYING FOR HANOI SINCE AGRIC PROSPERITY, ANY
INDEPENDENCE WITHIN COMMUNIST BLOC WILL DEPEND UPON OIL
DEVELOPMENT.

RADIO PP REPORTS NATL CONGRESS OF WORKERS, FARMERS,
SOLDIERS, APPROVES NEW CONSTITUTION; NO DETAILS GIVEN
(WP). WSTAR'S BRADSHER (12/15) AT BANGKOK NOTES NATURE
NEW CAMBODIA STILL MYSTERY, POSSIBLY DUE FACTIONAL
MANEUVERING WITHIN KR. QUOTES REPORTS OF GUERRILLA
RESISTANCE IN AREA ABOUT 60 MILES SW PP, ANOTHER IN
REGION S OF BATTAMBANG NEAR THAI BORDER. NOTES RTG
OFFICIALS REGARD RECENT SKIRMISH WITH KR AS LOCAL
MISUNDERSTANDING ON VAGUELY DEFINED BORDER. RTG SAW
KR REASONABLENESS IN RECENT IENG SARY VISIT AS DUE
PRC INFLUENCE TO HELP RELIEVE NVN PRESSURE ON BOTH
COUNTRIES. RECALLS PAST CIA CONNECTIONS WITH THAI ARMED
FORCES, ANTI-SIHANOUK GUERRILLAS; STATES THAI
INVOLVEMENT WITH PRESENT KHMER RESISTANCE WOULD RAISE
QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE CIA CONNECTION.

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD AT VIENTIANE REPORTS PL TRYING
FORGE LAOTIANS INTO SPARTAN, REGIMENTED SOCIETY. NOTES
PL GENERATES SOME ENTHUSIASM BY APPEAL TO NATIONALISM,
BUT RE-EDUCATION SEMINARS, POLITICAL CONTROLS PRODUCE
ANXIETY. RECOUNTS KING'S ABDICATION, PRESS REDUCED
TO 2 PAPERS, REQUIRED RE-EDUCATION CLASSES FROM WHICH
NO SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE RETURNED, REPLACEMENT OF PL
FRONT BY SHADOWY LAO PEOPLE'S REV PARTY WITH CLOSE
TIES TO NVN. OBSERVERELIANCE, HAGARDENS AROUND CITY
AS GOVT ENCOURAGES SELF-RELIANCE, HARDWORK. REPORTS
GOVT BLAMES THAI FOR BORDER TROUBLES BUT SOME DIPLOMATS
SUSPECT MEKONG INCIDENT ENGINEERED TO BEGIN WEANING
VIENTIANE AWAY FROM HIGH LIVING STD, DEPENDENCE ON
THAILAND.

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. AUSTRALIA

CSM NOTES AUSSIES SWING RIGHT IN FACE MOUNTING ECON WOES. FINDS INTERESTING SIMILARITIES WITH US DOMESTIC PROBLEMS: INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, URBAN PROBLEMS. BELIEVES FRASER'S BIGGEST PROBLEM TO WORK OUT RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIONS. FORESEES SOME CHANGE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH MORE STRESS ON ANZUS, FRIENDSHIP WITH UK, US, POSSIBLY MORE INTEREST IN EEC, FORUMS WHERE GOA DEALS AS INDUSTRIALIZED NATION.

PHINQ OPINES AUSSIES SAY "HALT" TO LABOR AFTER 3 YRS WATCHING GOVT SLICE UP GOOSE, BEMOAN DWINDLING SUPPLY GOLDEN EGGS. SEES VALUABLE LESSON FOR US, FOR VOTERS AND POLITICIANS ALIKE.

CHITRIB SEES AUSSIES REJECTING LABOR DUE ECON PROBLEMS, ENDORSEMENT GOVGEN'S ACTION IN OUSTING PARTY THAT COULD NO LONGER GOVERN. CALLS INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT PREDICTABLE RESULTS LABOR'S POLICIES; SAYS WHITLAM MORE CONTROVERSIAL THAN UNIFYING AS PM. THINKS END VN WAR MAY HAVE BEEN BIG FACTOR IN ELECTION SINCE WHITLAM OPPOSED WAR WHEN POPULAR TO DO SO, BUT COMMUNISM ADVANCING IN ASIA, INCREASINGLY VISIBLE, AND AUSSIES MAY BE REMEMBERING LONELY FEELING OF 1942 WHEN FRIENDS FAR AWAY, ENEMIES ADVANCING.

10. KOREA

PEARLSTINE (WSJ) IN SEOUL EXAMINES PERFORMANCE, PROSPECTS OF ROK ECONOMY. FINDS NATION ABOUT REPORT 10 PCT INCREASE IN EXPORTS, 8 PCT RISE IN GNP DESPITE HIGHER OIL COSTS. ALSO CITES NAGGING PROBLEMS LIKE INFLATION, AND LONG-TERM EXTERNAL DEBT EXPECTED RISE TO 5.83 BILLION DOLS BY END OF YEAR.

NOTES FOREIGN BANKERS AGREE WITH SK OFFICIALS THAT ROK "MANAGING ITS DEBT WELL", SHOULD REMAIN GOOD CREDIT RISK. BUT SOME NY BANKERS JOLTED BY TWO RECENT ADVERSE
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REPORTS. RECOUNTS PROBLEMS THAT BESET ROK EARLIER IN YEAR, INCLUDING NK THREAT INVADE AFTER FALL OF VN. DESCRIBES HOW SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, BOLD ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS BEGAN PRODUCE SMALL MONTHLY TRADE SURPLUSES

FROM MAY, WHICH MEANS SK CAN LIMIT TRADE DEFICIT THIS YEAR TO 1.4 BILLION DOLS, BOP DEFICIT TO 1.7 BILLION DOLS. ADDS ROK ALSO REDUCING SHORT-TERM DEBT, ADDING TO FOREX HOLDINGS IN PAST FEW MONTHS.

TAKES UP INST FOR INTL POLICY STUDY RELEASED LAST WEEK, THAT SAID SK HEADED FOR DEFAULT. SAYS ROK OFFICIALS BELIEVE REPORT BASED ON MISTAKEN ASSUMPTIONS, WON'T BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY BANKING COMMUNITY. QUOTES NATION'S TOP ECON PLANNER, DEP PM NAM DUCK WOO, THAT ALL NON-OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS HAVE BOP PROBLEMS, BUT "REAL ISSUE IS THAT WE HAVE MANAGED OUR DEBT, AND HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH THE OIL CRISIS." ALSO CITES COMMENT BY FNCBANK'S SHERMAN THAT DEBT CAN BE "SIGN OF DYNAMISM", AND HIS COMPARISON OF SK SITUATION WITH WHAT JAPAN WENT THROUGH SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

11. JAPAN

NYT'S GOLDBERGER REVIEWS OPENING OF "SHINJUKU: PHENOMENAL CITY" AT MUSEUM MODERN ART MONDAY. SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY VITALITY OF NEAR-IN CENTER IN TOKYO, WHERE TRAINS, STORES, BARS, HOTELS SERVE THREE MILLION COMMUTERS DAILY. GREW UNPLANNED AROUND TRANSPORT HUB, EXEMPLIFIES NEW DOCTRINE AMONG PLANNERS -- PLACES THAT DEVELOP ON OWN HAVE SPONTANEITY, VITALITY MISSING FROM URBAN PROJECTS "DESIGNED" TOO CAREFULLY.

12. CHINA

KRAFT (WP 12/15; SUN 12/14)IN PEKING RELATES SUCCESSION SCENARIO FORESEEN BY CONSENSUS OF CHINA WATCHERS, PREDICTED ON EMERGENCE OF TENG HSIAO PING UNDER PATRONAGE OF MAO. ASSUMING SOLID SUPPORT FROM ON HIGH, TENG STILL HAS THREE POWER GROUPS TO MASTER: SHANGHAI MAFIA, ARMY, AND PARTY POLICE/INTELLIGENCE APPARTUS. IF SCENARIO HOLDS UP, MORTALLY-ILL CHOU EN-LAI WOULD DIE, UNCLASSIFIED

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TENG BECOME PREMIER, SHANGHAI MAYOR AND TENG ASSOCIATE CHANG CHUN-CHIAO MOVE UP AS FIRST VPM, MAO BLESS ASCENSION, THEN DIE, LEAVING TEAM IN PLACE TO RULE. BUT WHAT NOT CLEAR IS WHETHER NEW LEADERSHIP COULD SHAKE OFF MAOIST LEGACY TO DEAL WITH OVERWHELMING PROBLEM OF MODERNIZING NATION, MAKING PRC PART OF WORLD ECONOMY.

LISAGOR (LAT 12/14) LAUDS PRES FOR NOT MAKING EXTRAVAGENT CLAIMS ABOUT CHINA TRIP. RETURNED WITHOUT TANGIBLE TRIUMPHS, CALLED TRIP CONSTRUCTIVE AND LET IT GO AT THAT. EVEN SO, ASKS IF THAT REASON ENOUGH FOR IT FALL OUT OF SIGHT WITHIN WEEK AFTER RETURN.

TO FORD, WHO TRIES SO HARD, MUST SEEM TERRIBLY UNFAIR.

GLOBE AND MAIL'S MONRO (CSM) IN PEKING SAYS 200 MILLION DOL JET ENGINE DEAL PROBABLY WILL BE WEIGHED BY COCOM, BUT DOUBTS R-R, OR CHINESE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THREE YEARS TO DEVELOP AGREEMENT WITHOUT CONCLUDING COCOM WOULD APPROVE.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN PEKING FINDS WOMEN'S LIB NOT GLAMOROUS OR CONTROVERSIAL IDEA IN CHINA, BUT AN ACCEPTED AND NOT ALWAYS EASY WAY OF LIFE. CITES CAREER WOMAN-TEXTILE MILL ADMINISTRATOR WAN YUN, THAT HOUSEWIVES MOBILIZED TO WORK AT SOMETHING SINCE LIBERATION, SO ALL CAN "CONTRIBUTE IN SOME WAY TOWARD THE TASK OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION."

CSM'S ARMBRUSTER IN TAIPEI NOTES MOST TAIWANESE DISPLEASED BY FORD VISIT, RELIEVED NOTHING AFFECTING THEIR COUNTRY DECIDED IN PEKING. SOME MYSTIFIED THAT VISIT FAILED PRODUCE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. CITES CHINA NEWS COMMENT THAT US "HONORABLY MOTIVATED" BUT WAR INEVITABLE IN TAIWAN STRAITS IF US PULLS OUT. SAYS CHINA POST REASSURED READERS BY CITING RECENT GALLUP POLL THAT SHOULD 70 PCT OF AMERICANS WOULD OPPOSE RECOGNITION OF PRC IF MEANS BREAKING TIES WITH TAIWAN.

ARMBRUSTER ALSO STATES TAIWAN ECONOMY HAS BEGUN UNCLASSIFIED

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SLOW, STEADY UPSWING AFTER BOTTOMING OUT IN APRIL, BUT BECAUSE EXPORTS ACCOUNT FOR HALF OF GNP FULL RECOVERY WILL BE DECIDED BY ABILITY OF INDUSTRI
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE296137
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750437-1027
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751291/baaaaddx.tel
Line Count: 412
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
NAHA
MOSCOW INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006